

external apparatus is judged to be the first access  
in the fourth step;

5 a sixth step of determining the external  
apparatus as an apparatus not to be responded to  
thereafter by the intelligent interconnecting  
device when the external apparatus is judged not  
to be authenticated in the third step;

10 a seventh step of causing the intelligent  
interconnecting device to judge whether or not the  
source IP address of the external apparatus giving  
the access thereto is identical with the stored  
source IP address when this access is judged not  
to be the first access in the first step;

15 an eighth step of determining the external  
apparatus whose source IP address is judged to be  
identical with the stored source IP address as an  
apparatus to be responded to thereafter by the  
intelligent interconnecting device and causing the  
intelligent interconnecting device to process the  
20 steps beginning from the second step when the  
source IP address of the external apparatus is  
judged to be identical with the stored source IP  
address in the seventh step; and

25 a ninth step of determining the external  
apparatus whose source IP address is judged to be

nonidentical with the stored source IP address as  
an apparatus not to be responded to thereafter by  
the intelligent interconnecting device when the  
source IP address of the external apparatus is  
5 judged to be nonidentical with the stored source  
IP address in the seventh step.

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22. An intelligent interconnecting device having  
a function of repeating a packet which is  
10 transmitted/received between a plurality of  
computers and being structured to be controllable  
by an external apparatus based on a TCP/IP protocol,  
the intelligent interconnecting device  
comprising:

15 a LAN trunk line interfacing section having  
an interface function with a LAN trunk line;

a port interfacing section having an interface  
function with a terminal connected thereto;

a storage section for storing a program and  
20 data therein; and

a central controlling section for controlling  
operations of said LAN trunk line interfacing  
section, said port interfacing section, and said  
storage section,

25 wherein said central controlling section

executes the following steps:

a first step of causing the intelligent interconnecting device to judge whether or not a first access to the intelligent interconnecting device from outside has occurred;

a second step of causing the intelligent interconnecting device to carry out authentication processing by using a user identifier and a password based on the TCP/IP protocol when it is judged in the first step that the first access from outside has occurred;

a third step of causing the intelligent interconnecting device to judge after the authentication processing in the second step whether or not authentication is given;

a fourth step of determining an authenticated external apparatus as an apparatus to be responded to thereafter by the intelligent interconnecting device and causing the intelligent interconnecting device to judge whether or not this access is the first access, when it is judged in the third step that the authentication is given;

a fifth step of causing the intelligent interconnecting device to extract and store a

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